AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes sir. Most of the waste disposal systems in use in different cities and towns of the country are not satisfactory and are responsible for environmental pollution.

(b) and (c) Solid Waste Management is a State Subject. It is an obligatory function of the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies to plan, design, implement, operate and maintain solid waste management systems in the urban areas of the country. To streamline the management of solid wastes, the Government notified the draft Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1999 in The Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II-Section 3—Sub-section (ii) on September 27, 1999 inviting suggestions and objections. A large number of suggestions and objections have been received.

**Environmental Pollution by Mining Operations**

1703. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mining operations in various parts of the country are responsible for environmental pollution as well as to flora and fauna; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken and are being contemplated for future by Government, to contain such harmful effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The mining operations may cause environmental pollution as also may affect the flora and fauna, if environmental safeguards are not adopted.

(b) The Government has notified ambient air quality standards which are also applicable to mining activities. All mining projects of major minerals, with mining area of more than five hectares, are required to obtain environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

**Provision of Wireless sets to Forest Personnel in M.P.**

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.